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A REPLY MADE By Mr. THOMAS PVRY ALDERMAN OF GLOVCESTER,

UNTO

Two Gentlemen of the long Robe, And two Worthy *Knights* of the HOVSE of COMMONS touching *Episcopacy*; and DEANES and CHAPTERS; at a Committee of the whole HOVSE.

Printed in the yeare 1641.

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JUNE 1, 1918

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A REPLY MADE By Mr. THOMAS PVRY Alderman of GLOVCESTER, unto Two *Gentlemen* of the *Long Robe*, and two worthy *Knights* of the HOVSE of COMMONS touching *Episcopacy*, and *Deanes* and *Chapters*; at a Committee of the whole HOVSE.

Mr. HIDE,

I Rise not up to Answer the Arguments of the Learned Gentleman of the long robe that spake last, the which were to prove some Incoherence of the Preamble with the body of the Bill concerning the abolishing of Deanes and Chapters in respect of their government in the Church of *England*, who have none at all, as hath beene argued, but there are some Reasons sticke with me, whereby I doe conceive, that the Deanes and Chapters have beene, and are

part of the Government of the Church of *England*, and that the preamble, and body of this Bill, therein may very well ſtand together; for if you take the Deanes and Chapters in their Originall, who (as it was ſaid by a Learned Sergeant over againſt me) were firſt founded in ſuperſtition alike to your Regular and Secular Monkes; or if you conſider them as in their prime inſtitution to be *Conſilium Epiſ.* to aſſiſt Biſhops in their Government, and Diſcipline; or if you looke upon theſe Deanes and Chapters of the laſt Foundation by *Henry the eight*: yet certainely they are in all theſe capacities a part of the government of the Church of *England*; and as well the Rurall, as the Cathedrall Deanes, are numbred by our owne Writers among Church Governors, and they are in and among themſelves a part of the Church Government, and by the Booke of Reformation of Eccleſiaſticall Lawes they are to governe themſelves according to their Statutes of Foundation, and to keepe them pure and entire, ſo farre as they are not repugnent to the Word of God, and our Conſtitutions of Religion. And for the better ſatisfaction of this Committee and my ſelfe, here is a Copy of the Statutes Grant, and Foundation of the Deane and Chapter of the city of *Gloucester*, I have read them over, and doe finde: Firſt, the end wherefore the Lands, and Poſſeſſions were granted unto them. Secondly, the manner and

forme

forme of Government of themselves. And lastly, their severall Oathes to keepe all the Statutes prescribed unto them: And because of my weake memory, please you to give me leave to reade the words in the Kings Grant, *English* thus;

Wee have erected and constituted Cathedralls & Colledges in the place of Monasteries, to the end, that where Ignorance, and Superstition did raigne, there the sincere Worship of God should flourish, and the holy Gospell of Christ Iesus should be dayly and purely Preached. And further, that the increase of the Christian Faith, and Piety, the Instruction of youth in good learning, and the sustentation of the poore should be for ever there kept, maintained & continued; and the said Deane, Prebends, Cannons, and all other persons belonging to the said Cathedralls and Colledges, are to be governed and ruled according to the Statutes prescribed unto them.

Sir, the Statutes are many, I will in briefe tell you the substance of some few of them. The said Deane, Prebends, and Canons, are alwayes to reside and dwell in the houses of the said Cathedralls, and there to keep a Family, good hospitality, to feede the poore, and to distribute Almes unto the needy, to be carefull to Preach the Word of God, *In season, and out of season*, and to sow the seede of the Word of God abroad, but especially in the said Cathedrall Church,

and to have youth profitable taught there. And to the end that they may all serve God, as well at meales as in the Church, they are to have a common Table in the common Hall of the said Cathedrall, where the said Cannons Schollers, Quiresters, and under-Officers, are appointed to eate together, and the said Deane, and Chapter, are to give yearely twenty pound to the poore, beside their owne poore Almsmen, and twenty pound more yearely towards the repairing of bridges and High-wayes thereabouts.

Sir, for the performance of the said Statutes and premises. The said Deane, Prebends, Cannons, and Ministers of the said Cathedrall, doe, or ought respectively to take an Oath; and thereby in expresse words do call God to witnesse, and doe sweare upon the holy Evangelists, to rule, governe, and behave themselves well and faithfully in the said Church, according to the Will and Statutes of the Founder, and every one of them doe sweare, that he will to his uttermost power, well and faithfully keepe all and singular the said Ordinances & Statutes, as much as concernes himselfe, and will procure all others as much as concernes them to keepe the same inviolablely: So helpe him God, and these holy Gospels of God.

Mr. HIDE, You see wherefore the Lands were granted unto Deanes and Chapters, what their

their Statutes are, and their Oathes to keepe them: It might be thought that these men doe know no way, another, or neerer way to heaven than they teach us; or otherwise that they would not sit in the seate of Perjury, as it may seeme they doe, without remorse of conscience: For it is notoriously knowne to the city of *Gloucester* and country there aboute, That not one of the said Statutes before mentioned, are, or ever were, during my remembrance, kept, or the matters contained in any of them performed by any of the Deanes, or Prebends of the said Cathedrall; They come indeede once a yeare to receive the Rents and Profits of the said Lands, but doe not distribute unto the poore and needy their portion, neglecting altogether the mending of the Highwayes and Bridges, and doe not keepe any common Table at all: and in stead of Preaching the Word of God themselves, *In season, and out of season*, they are, and have beene the chiefe instruments to hinder the same in others. Infinite are the Pressure that many Cities neare unto Deanes and Chapters, have endured by them, and their procurement. And whereas it was objected by another learned Gentleman of the long robe, That the Deanes and Chapters are a body corporate, and that they have as much right unto their Lay possessions as any other body politicke, or any City or Towne Corporate; I am of his opinion, for such Lands and Possessions

sessions (if they have any) which they bought themselves in right of their corporation, or for such Lands as were given them for their owne use, and I am well contented that such Lands should be left unto them; but their case is farre different in my opinion, for I have showed you before, to what godly, pious, and charitable uses the said Lands and possessions were granted unto them: And fitable thereunto you may call to minde the *Londoners* Case about *Londonderry* in the *Starrechamber*, where they were fyned 70000. pound to his Majestie, and the same afterwards estrated into his Majesties Exchequer. But upon the Writ of Extent issuing out thereupon, his Majestie, as I have heard, received no benefit of any such Lands, wherof the Corporation was seized for the maintainance of any Hospitalls, Bridges, or other charitable uses, or ought to have done, as I conceive. Seeing therefore the said Deanes and Chapters are but Trustees, and the profits of the said Lands, so ill imployed by them, contrary to the trust reposed in them; I am cleare of opinion, that by a Legislative power in *Parliament*, it is fit to take them away, and to put them into the hands of Feoffees to be disposed of to such pious, religious, and charitable uses, as they were first intended: But it was said by a worthy Knight, That hee should be unwilling to take away their Lands and Possessions, untill he first knew how they should be disposed of, and how the persons,

who

who were many thousands in this Kingdome (as he said) that would want bread, should be provided for. Certainely Mr. *Hide* (although that is not the worke at this time) yet I account it no difficulty to satisfie that worthy Knight; for I finde upon the survay of the Lands of the said Deanery of *Glouceſter*, that it hath above twelve Rectoryes of good value, & about thirty Vicaredges, Pentions, and Portions of Tithes, which being at the firſt, *Deo conſecraota*, moſt fit they ſhould be ſtill imployed for the maintenance of the Goſpell; and therefore if thoſe Deanes and Prebends being but ſeaven in all to be now taken away, will be Preaching Miniſters, there is, I hope, ſufficient maintenance for ſo many of them as have not too much, beſides, and yet to reſerve as large a Salary as now they have for ſo many ſinging men there in holy Orders that cannot Preach. And then there are left to be provided for, but the Organiſt, eight Singing boyes, two Schoole-Maſters, foure poore Almeſmen, and ſome under-Officers, whoſe yearely wages, comes unto about one hundred pound *per annum*; and the ſaid Deane and Chapter have almoſt the third part of the houſes of the City of *Glouceſter* the old rent of them being yearly about 175. pound, which will well defray that charge with a ſufficient Surpluſage for repairing the highwayes, Bridges; and twenty pound yearely to the poore, as aforeſaid.

But over and beſides, the ſaid yearely revenewes before mentione !, the ſaid Deane and Chapter of *Glouceſter*, although but of the laſt Foundation, and one of the leaſt revenewes in this Kingdome, yet they have eighteene goodly Mannors, and alſo divers other Lands, Tenements, and Hereditaments, beſides the Mannors houſes, and premiſes, the old rent of Aſſize of one of the ſaid Mannors being 80. pound *per annum*; out of which Mannors and Lands, the ſaid Cathedrall being to be made a Perochicall Church 200. pound *per annum*, or more may be allowed for a learned Preaching Miniſter there, and a hundred pound a yeare apeice, for two ſuch others to aſſiſt him, with in few yeares, one of the ſaid Mannors will diſcharge, and alſo ſufficiently repaire the ſaid Cathedrall Church; and then the reſt of the ſaid Mannors and Lands may be imployed to other godly, pious, or charitable uſes, as the Wiſedome of the King and Parliament ſhall thinke fit, and ſutable to this, but in a more ample proportion of maintenance, will be the allowances of all other Deaheryes in *England*.

Againe, this I conceive will anſwer another Objection raiſed by a worthy Knight at the Bar touching the poverty of the Clergy of *England*, if this Bill ſhould take effect, ſurely my opinion is quite contrary; and to that purpoſe, I call to minde the ſaying of a learned Divine, Chaplaine to a Noble man, upon ſome conference

with

with him of our wished desire to remove scandalous Ministers, and to reduce the Impropriations of Bishops, and Deanes and Chapters to a Preaching Ministry, if these things, said hee, take effect, the Universities, will not be able to supply the Churches: And surely Sir, if these things take effect, I am confident we shall be so farre from having a poore beggerly Clergy, as that no Kingdome in the Christian world will have a more rich, and flourishing Clergy, both for Nurseries, and incouragements of Learning: and for their maintenance in more plentifull manner than it is at this present. Please you therefore to put the Question, I am ready to give my ade thereunto.

FINIS.